

## Housing America Month Celebrated at African American Atelier

Mayor Nancy Vaughan, Greensboro Housing Authority (GHA) Board of Commissioner Nancy Hunter, representatives from Greensboro's social service, art and housing agencies, young artists and their friends and families, and GHA staff all joined together at the African-American Atelier (AAA) in the Greensboro Cultural Arts Center to celebrate Housing America Month on October 2nd.

The importance and need of affordable housing in our community was in the forefront of presentations by Mayor Vaughan, GHA CEO Tina Akers Brown, and AAA Gallery Manager Angela Fitzgerald. "Affordable housing developments across the country not only house people, but have contributed to successful families, stronger communities, economic growth, educational opportunities, jobs, and better lives for residents of these properties," said Akers Brown, "In our current economic environment, the need for affordable housing continues to grow." Greensboro Housing Authority is Guilford County's largest provider of affordable housing, providing housing to citizens through its Housing Choice Voucher and Public Housing Programs. GHA houses nearly 13,000 Greensboro citizens of whom 2,664 are disabled, 2,067 are seniors, 5,838 are children under the age of 18, and 91 percent live below the federal poverty guidelines.



(pictured l to r) Mayor Nancy Vaughan, national poster contest winner Harmonee Williamson Cooper, and GHA's CEO Tina Akers Brown



Nyasia Bridgett is recognized by Sabrina Abney, Client Services Coordinator, for her participation in the "What Home Means to Me" poster contest and gallery.

All children who participated in the "What Home Means to Me" poster contest were recognized during the program by GHA Client Services Coordinator Sabrina Abney. Over 40 children submitted posters and essays for the annual contest and gallery with the artwork on display at the AAA through October 6. Excerpts from each essay were shared in the printed program that was given to each attendee. Just a few of the thoughts from the talented artists include:

- *Home means consistency, warmth, support, safety and of course love.*
- *Home to me is where you feel secure and where I have privacy. Home is where you love.*
- *Our wonderful dreams are encouraged here and it's where our dreams start.*
- *Home is where you're inner you comes out and where you're most comfortable. Home is a hug, song and person that will never let you go.*
- *When you walk into your home, you instantly feel the vibe of family, smiles, food, shelter and even love.*
- *Home means everything to me. It has my family, love, sleep and peace.*

GHA's Housing America Celebration and "What Home Means to Me" Gallery were included in Greensboro's 17Days of Art and Culture Festival that includes over 100 events across Greensboro, NC, in dozens of unique venues.